

REMARKS

The undersigned attorney would like to thank Examiner Goodman for the courtesies extended to him during the personal interview on July 16, 2003. During the interview, Claim 1 was discussed.

At the interview, the discussion focused on defining the invention as it relates to a reciprocating power saw. The Examiner suggested more features relating to the power tool be included in the preamble and incorporated into the body of the claim. Further, the obviousness rejection was discussed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 8-11, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Vannuvel in view of Grant et al. Also, Claims 1-11, 13 and 14 were rejected as being unpatentable over Huang in view of Grant et al. The Examiner alleges that these two combinations of references would render Applicant's invention obvious to those skilled in the art.

Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 1 further defines an arrangement for a saw blade in a reciprocating power tool having a motor. The motor receives a reciprocating shaft. A reciprocating power tool shaft, having two ends, has one end coupled with the motor of the power tool. The other end includes a retaining member. The retaining member is lockable in at least two positions. Each of the at least two positions clamps the blade at a predetermined angle relative to the shaft.

The art relied on by the Examiner, specifically Vannuvel and Grant et al., fail to disclose or suggest Applicant's invention. Vannuvel discloses a hand tool which is

movable into different positions. The Grant et al. reference illustrates a reciprocating saw with a clamp. The Examiner suggests that these references would be combined with one another.

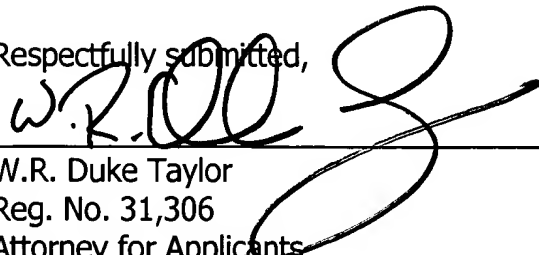
There is no teaching or suggestion as to how these references would be combined with one another. The Vannuvel reference utilizes wing nuts to hold the blade onto the manual handle. Grant et al. utilizes a spring mechanism to retain the blade into the clamping member. Accordingly, there is no motivation or suggestion of the modification of these two references to come up with Applicant's invention. Accordingly, Applicant believes Claim 1 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner. Likewise, Claims 2-14 which depend from Claim 1 are patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

The Huang reference cited by the Examiner, like the Vannuvel reference, illustrates a manual hand tool. The manual hand tool includes a knob which is spring loaded and includes a latch for contacting slots or depressions in a blade. This device locks the blade in different positions. There is no motivation or suggestion of combining the Huang reference with Grant. Grant illustrates a reciprocating saw blade clamp. There is no suggestion or teaching as to how one would modify the Huang reference to fit onto the reciprocating clamping blade. Thus, there is no suggestion or motivation to combine these references.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all pending claims are in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request the Examiner to pass to issue at his earliest possible convenience.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,


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